

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AGR-05 FRB-03 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3916
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
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AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2592

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PROP, ELAB, GY
SUBJECT: SUGAR WORKERS CALL SOLIDARITY STRIKE

REF: GEORGETOWN 2587

1. THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) AND THE PPP-
CONTROLLED GUYANA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION (GAWU) HAVE JOINED
IN PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE BAUXITE WORKERS.
GAWU, THE BARGAINING AGENT FOR THE SUGAR WORKERS, HAS
CALLED A STRIKE EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 21 IN SUPPORT OF THE
BAUXITE WORKERS. GAWU HAS CALLED THIS STRIKE TO ASSIST
THE LINDEN STRIKERS TO OBTAIN IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS,
BETTER WAGES, NEW UNION ELECTIONS, AND WORKER CONTROL
OF THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY.

2. COMMENT: WITH THE DECISION OF THE PREDOMINANTLY
EAST INDIAN GAWU TO STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF THE
MAINLY BLACK BAUXITE WORKERS, THE STRIKE ENTERS
A NEW POLITICAL PHASE. IF THE SUGAR STRIKE IS
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SUCCESSFUL, BLACKS AND EAST INDIANS WILL FIND
THEMSELVES UNITED IN OPPOSITION TO THE GOG. THE
SUGAR HARVEST IS NOT YET COMPLETED. THE UNION OF
DISSIDENTS AND THE POTENTIAL LOSS OF REVENUE IN
BOTH INDUSTRIES COULD BECOME A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR
THE GOVERNMENT FURTHER THREATENING THE ECONOMIC

STABILITY OF THIS ECONOMICALLY
HARD-PRESSED NATION. THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT IS
MAKING A HASH OUT OF BURNHAM'S CALL FOR SOCIALIST
UNITY, DISCIPLINE, AND INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY.
THERE IS UNITY BUT NOT IN THE DIRECTION BURNHAM
DESIRES.
MCCOY

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